

Suggested Talking Points
Jon D. Lindborg
Mission Director, USAID/Philippines
1st MCC Threshold Program
Steering Committee Meeting
November 22, 2006, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
5th/F, DOF Bldg., BSP Complex, Manila

- We eagerly look forward to working with the Philippine Government to successfully implement the MCC Threshold Program to strengthen revenue administration and bolster anti-corruption efforts in the Philippines.
- The Philippine Government's continuous and aggressive efforts to stamp out corruption, plug revenue leaks, and increase tax collection will ultimately allow your government to channel more resources to directly benefit the Filipino people, in particular, the poor.
- MCC is committed to supporting countries that are themselves committed to good governance, investing in their people, and sound micro and macro-economic policies.
- Early this month, MCC selected three countries for compact status: Jordan, Ukraine and Moldova. These countries were selected on the basis of their demonstrated commitment to these three policy areas. In making this selection,

the Board of Directors of MCC used the data from 16 independent policy indicators as well as two supplemental indicators that measure policies that promote sustainable management of natural resources.

- MCC has indicated that successful implementation of a Threshold Program, and its corresponding reform commitments will be critical to reach a Compact - governments must demonstrate successful implementation of the Threshold Program, including achievement of reform and implementation benchmarks, during the compact development process in order to reach a compact, and then to continue to receive MCA funding under a Compact.
- Bob Wuertz, Chief of our Office of Economic Development and Governance, will be providing a short update on the program and the current Philippine standing with respect to the Threshold Program performance indicators.
- As a final note, let me just say that we are truly excited and proud to participate in and support the Philippine Threshold Program. You have my assurance that USAID will provide whatever is necessary to support the Philippine Government to implement a successful Philippine Threshold Program, and will help monitor the achievement of implementation

benchmarks during the MCA compact development process.